



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

Forum on Minority Issues

Eighteenth session

Geneva, 27 and 28 November 2025

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

Provisional agenda and annotations

Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
2. Building trust and social cohesion: addressing barriers to peaceful coexistence.
3. Recognizing the full contribution of minorities to the economic, social, cultural, political and institutional fabric of society.
4. Amplifying minority voices in peacebuilding, accountability and transitional justice processes.
5. Concluding remarks.

Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

Dates and venue

Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 6/15 and 19/23, the eighteenth session of the Forum on Minority Issues will be held on 27 and 28 November 2025. Meetings will be held in the Assembly Hall of the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Documents for the session will be made available on the web page of the Forum.¹

Opening of the session

The President of the Human Rights Council will deliver an opening statement, which will be followed by statements by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues and the Chair of the Forum.

Panel discussions

During the two-day session, participants will be invited to contribute to three panel discussions organized under the theme “The contribution of minorities to diverse, resilient, and peaceful societies”. Each panel discussion will be introduced by two panellists.

¹ See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/forums/2025/eighteenth-session-forum-minority-issues>.



Recommendations emanating from the panel discussions will be included in the outcome document that the Special Rapporteur on minority issues will present to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-first session.

2. Building trust and social cohesion: addressing barriers to peaceful coexistence

Under this agenda item, the Forum will examine the structural drivers of mistrust, exclusion and conflict between minority and dominant populations, as well as among minority groups themselves. The discussion will address the root causes of exclusion, discrimination and intergroup tensions, including entrenched inequalities, social stigma and the persistent invisibility of minority groups, as obstacles to harmony and peaceful coexistence. Panellists will highlight State and community initiatives that have successfully diffused tensions and fostered trust, such as community-based strategies, mediation programmes, intercultural, inter-caste and interfaith dialogue initiatives and multilingual education policies. They will also reflect on the role of education, the media and artistic or cultural expression in countering stigmatization and creating inclusive social norms.

3. Recognizing the full contribution of minorities to the economic, social, cultural, political and institutional fabric of society

Under this agenda item, the Forum will explore how minorities contribute to all aspects of society, often in ways that remain undervalued or overlooked. The discussion will be focused on ensuring that the contributions of minorities are fairly recognized and integrated into national narratives and policymaking. Participants will present examples of how minority communities strengthen civic engagement and institutions, enrich cultural life and advance innovation and development. Examples include how minority-owned businesses drive local economies, how minority artists and intellectuals broaden national cultures and how minority activists shape political reforms and human rights protections. Attention will also be paid to multi-stakeholder and multilevel approaches that bring together Governments, civil society, academia and the business sector, as well as religious leaders and other actors, to create inclusive policies and ensure that minorities are seen as equal contributors to shared prosperity.

4. Amplifying minority voices in peacebuilding, accountability and transitional justice processes

Under this agenda item, the Forum will focus on the unique role that minorities play in societies in post-conflict or transition situations, and the importance of ensuring their participation in building sustainable peace. This is a crucial issue, as peacebuilding processes that exclude minorities risk reinforcing structural inequalities and perpetuating instability. Participants will reflect on how minority communities, drawing on their lived experiences of marginalization or conflict, contribute to reconciliation, dialogue and the pursuit of justice. They may highlight minority-led initiatives in conflict resolution, grass-roots reconciliation projects or inclusive truth and reconciliation commissions. The Forum will also consider the legal and institutional reforms necessary to guarantee minority representation and protection in transitional justice mechanisms, demonstrating how inclusive processes can build societies that are more stable, resilient and just.

5. Concluding remarks

The Chair of the Forum and the Special Rapporteur on minority issues will make concluding remarks, drawing on the outcomes of the two days of discussion and including proposals for follow-up steps to be taken by all Forum participants.

Annex

Programme of work of the eighteenth session of the Forum on Minority Issues

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Programme</i>
Thursday, 27 November 2025		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	1. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work	Welcome and opening remarks by the President of the Human Rights Council Remarks by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Remarks by the Special Rapporteur on minority issues Remarks by the Chair of the Forum on Minority Issues
	2. Building trust and social cohesion: addressing barriers to peaceful coexistence	Panel discussion
3–6 p.m.	2. Building trust and social cohesion: addressing barriers to peaceful coexistence (<i>continued</i>)	Panel discussion (<i>continued</i>)
Friday, 28 November 2025		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	3. Recognizing the full contribution of minorities to the economic, social, cultural, political and institutional fabric of society	Panel discussion
3–6 p.m.	4. Amplifying minority voices in peacebuilding, accountability and transitional justice processes	Panel discussion
	5. Concluding remarks	Remarks by the Special Rapporteur on minority issues Remarks by the Chair of the Forum on Minority Issues